



DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92717-4575

June 27, 1994

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Rockefeller University  
New York, NY

Dear Professor Lederberg:

Given your close interest in biological conservation, I write to invite you to a workshop to discuss the many, sometimes conflicting methods now available to us.

I am planning a Workshop in

Biological Conservation Strategies: Optimizing In Situ and Ex Situ Approaches

October 31 and November 1 (Monday and Tuesday) 1994

to be held at the west coast center of the National Academy of Sciences, Beckman Center, on the University of California, Irvine campus.

The context will be informal, with papers delivered as starting points for friendly give and take. We shall address several broad agendas:

- \* How realistic are the orthodox methods, considering the probable continued losses in the next few decades?
- \* Can these methods achieve their goals? Does the biodiversity community worldwide even agree on what those goals should be?
- \* How could a synthesis of in situ and ex situ strategies work?
- \* Are there other sensible and economic alternatives?

Discussion will stress alternatives and/or fusions of methods. To this end, mirroring biodiversity itself, we have invited working professionals from a diversity of disciplines. We anticipate frank and wide-ranging discussion of pressing strategies. This will be a small meeting of twenty participants, with perhaps another ten onlookers.

I hope you would like to attend and speak. Whatever you wish to say would, I am sure, be of great interest--anything from particular advocacy to a general overview.

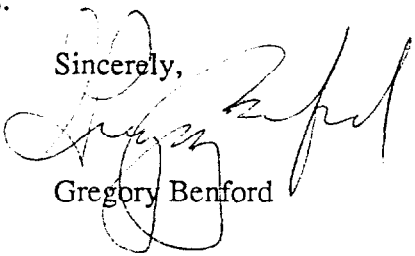
Page two

Please consider this invitation. If you could let me know fairly soon your ideas, and whether you would like to help organize (perhaps chairing a session), I would very much appreciate it.

Can you think of others who should be asked to help organize? And who should be invited generally?

Please let me know if you wish to attend. Regrettably, no travel funds are available. Those responding positively will receive further details.

Sincerely,



Gregory Benford

GB:mo